

The Newsletter

January 2014

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer - Pastor

Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

**A great place to meet new friends,
find needed encouragement and
discover God's plan for you.**

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fridays: 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Phone: 512- 452.5796

Fax: 512- 450.0323

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Web site:

www.memorialumcaustin.com

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

January 2014 Highlights

Upcoming Events.....	2
BRUNCH/UMW.....	3
Pastor's Corner.....	4
January Calendar.....	5
Boy Scouts/Birthdays.....	6



Special Worship services for Advent and Christmas

December 15 at 10:30am - *Cantata*

Bringing together Bible texts that tell of Christ's coming and music interpretations, the choir will explore the mystery of God coming to us.

December 24 at **6:30 pm** - *Christmas Candlelight*

December 29 at 10:30 am - *Bell Ringing Service*

Our special night when we celebrate Christ's birth with traditional lessons and carols and communion.

Get-Ready-for-Christmas Activities



Memorial is helping your family set the stage for a wonderful Christmas - no matter what size or age your family is! Grandparents, singles with or without kids, large families and families with only

children - EVERYONE is welcome for the party! At least one adult per household needs to be on campus for the fun. INVITE NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS!

December 22 - Making Block Activities - includes a Snack Lunch at Noon and activities will start at 12:30 pm.

Do you remember the nativity set you weren't allowed to play with as a child? We'll be making a basic nativity set (Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph) using sturdy wood blocks, so it can be used anywhere, supplies provided by MUMC.

CORRECTION!

In the last newsletter, we stated that our Christmas Eve service of Carols and Communion would be at 7:00pm. The correct time for that service is **6:30pm**. We know that many people cannot make an earlier service, so we are trying to put together a smaller, but still moving service at 10:00pm in the Chapel. Please let the church office know if you would be interested in such a service.

Apportionment Sunday

December 29 will be a last opportunity to help us with our missional giving to the wider United Methodist Church. The Finance Committee has designated that every 5th Sunday be a Sunday on which we emphasize another area of this missional giving, and so on this Sunday, our apportionment giving will go to the Austin District Missions line item. This money goes to support district-wide events, such as leadership training and large youth events.



Joanne Macon's Retirement Reception

**Sunday, January 12
10:00 - 10:30 am
in the Narthex**

Joanne Macon will be retiring as Memorial's church secretary effective January 15, 2014. Joanne has served as church secretary since October 15, 2001. She plans to indulge in long-deferred travel with husband Richard, who also will retire on January 10, 2014. They will be spending more time with her grandchildren and long delayed home projects, and of course traveling both in States and overseas. Thank you, Joanne for your dedication and love for this church!

You will have an opportunity to say thank you to Joanne during a reception between Sunday School and worship on January 12, in the parlor. A retirement gift will be presented to Joanne. If you wish to participate, please mark contributions "Joanne Retirement" and make sure the church has them by Sunday, January 12. She will receive the gift on her last day, Wednesday, January 15. If you have any questions, please contact Wanda.

Note from your Financial Secretary

End of Year Giving

End of year gifts for MUMC must be postmarked or delivered by December 31, 2013, to be credited to this year's giving. For more info, please call Kerry at 452-5796.

CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFT FOR OUR CHURCH STAFF

It's that time of year when we get the opportunity to show appreciation to our wonderful church staff. This year we have decided to send this request through our newsletter. As each of you know, we are truly blessed to have such a hard-working and loyal group of people making sure that our church follows its mission. As in the past, we will collect gifts from members and friends and then present our love gift to each staff member. All money collected will be evenly divided among our staff.

If you wish to participate, please mail your check made out to the church designating it "Staff Love Gift" or put your check or cash gift in the offering in an envelope marked "Staff Love Gift". Please get your gift to the church by December 31, in order for us to present it at the first Staff meeting in January.

Thank you for your participation in letting our staff know how much we appreciate what they do for our church all year long.

Newsletter Deadline - Tuesday, Jan. 21

Winter BRUNCH!

"It Is Well"

You know that urge we all get to make healthy changes in our life at the start of the new year? Let us help you by getting focused on the health of your body *and* your spirit! Join us for a meal immediately following worship as well as information sessions and studies. Then set a goal for yourself and work toward it all winter long, leading up to our Big Celebration on April 6!

January 12 - Winter Kickoff!

Our guest speaker will be talking about our spiritual and physical health and how they go together, as well as how to set attainable goals for your health.

January 19 - Get Your Body Moving!

We'll have workshops on options for getting your body moving, including the formation of our Run/Walk team (our goal will be to encourage one another to either run or walk a 5 or 10k sometime before June).

January 26 - Health Fair

We've invited several organizations to come and bring screenings as well as information about preventative care for all sorts of health difficulties. More information on who will be here early in January.

February 2, 9, 16 and 23 - Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go

Taking care of our spiritual health, we will be looking at Adam Hamilton's study on forgiveness.

In March, we will have a second health fair as well as another opportunity for looking at our spiritual health - more details in the new year! And to finish, on April 6, we'll get together for a celebration of the goals we've reached as well as encouragement for where we'd like to go next.



United Methodist Women

by Jane Friedrich

We ended the year thankful that we have been able to meet our obligations and have distributed funds "in a good way". UMW collected toys for Operation Brown Santa; paid our pledges to Friendship Center and Church Women United; contributed to clothing kits for Mexico; had altar flowers in memory of deceased members. BIF had the traditional project of remembering Memorial's shut-in members with useful gift bags and other projects as the need arose. BIF emptied their treasury and divided the funds between Brown Santa and Meals on Wheels. Our next activity is the unit's annual Christmas party for the residents of Parsons House (December 15). This is an event that both we and the residents look forward to every year. (We occasionally throw in something that is fun, for instance, we had a hat style show which provided lots of laughs and memories of days of yore when we ALWAYS wore hats to church.)

Now, turning a new leaf on the calendar - we look forward to 2014 when we can work together on some meaningful projects.

BIF will meet on January 7, 2014, ready to do our part in whatever needs that arise. We look forward to Stephanie Lacy's programs and would love to have visitors.

Reading and Library meets the second Thursday of each month (January 9, 2014).

Lamplighters will meet January 16, 2014, in the N.E.W. classroom at 7:00 p.m. The programs for the year will be discussed.

Jan.
2014

Pastor's Corner

"A Word is dead
When it is said,
some say.
I say it just
Begins to live
That day." --Emily Dickinson

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen his glory..." (John 1:14)

This poem was read at the annual Clergywomen's retreat, and we were asked to reflect on it for awhile in conjunction with some of Dickinson's other poems. But as we enter the Christmas season, I was struck by the use of "Word".

For all of the joyful things we look forward to at Christmastime, after the happy event, there is a dead or dying tree to contend with. There are also the deaths of our own expectations that we might have gotten everything spotless this Christmas, that we would have overnight become Martha Stewart, that we might have managed not to have a single conflict with our family. The death of our pocketbook as we purchase gifts and otherwise spend a little bit extra than most times of year.

And what of our interaction with Jesus? Do we just relegate the plastic baby doll again to the cupboard along with the manger and a few stray sheep? Does the warm glow and magic of Christmas eve die away when all of the parties are done and it's back to work?

The season of Christmas actually begins with the birth of Christ - it doesn't end. God speaks the Word into flesh and we begin again to live.

One way to keep on living is to continue to stay in touch with others who can encourage you and walk with you. A Sunday School class, regular worship, perhaps checking out our BRUNCH offerings, volunteering at the Austin FreeStore or with another group that you see regularly. The point is that when we try to go it alone after Christmas, it's much easier to let ourselves drift along, letting Jesus become a dim memory, put once again on a shelf.

But the gift of Christmas isn't anything that fades away. The gift of Christmas is one that we can unwrap every day: the gift of eternal life, brought to us by God, who became one of us.



JANUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 1 - New Years Day

Office Closed

No Bell or Choir Practice

Friday, Jan. 3

10:00 am - Bible Study

Saturday, Jan. 4

9:30 am - WPNA Yard of the Month - FHL

Sunday, Jan. 5 - Communion/Epiphany

8:30 am - 1st Sunday Pancake Breakfast

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Services

Monday, Jan. 6

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Jan. 7

9:30 am - BIF Circle - Pearce

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 8

6 pm - Bell Practice

7 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, Jan. 9

7 pm - Austin Ukulele Society - FHL

7 pm - UMW Reading & Library Circle

Saturday, Jan. 11

10:00 am - WPNA - FHL

Sunday, Jan. 12

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Services

11:45 am - Trustee Meeting - Pearce

12:00 Noon - BRUNCH - Winter Kickoff!

Monday, Jan. 13

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:30 pm - Church Council - Pearce

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Jan. 14

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

6:30 pm - Wesley Board Meeting - Pearce

Wednesday, Jan. 15

6 pm - Bell Practice

7 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, Jan. 16

7:00 pm - UMW Lamplighters Circle - N.E.W.

Friday, Jan. 17

10 am - Bible Study

Sunday, Jan. 19 - Memorial for Christ

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Services

12:00 noon - BRUNCH -Get Your Body Moving!

Monday, Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Holiday

Office Closed

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Jan. 21 - Newsletter Deadline

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 22

6 pm - Bell Practice

7 pm - Choir Practice

Sunday, Jan. 26

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Services

12:00 noon - BRUNCH - Health fair

Monday, Jan. 27

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Jan. 28

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 29

6 pm - Bell Practice

7 pm - Choir Practice

CONSIDER JOINING BOY SCOUTS TROOP 88

EXPERIENCE THE FUN!



Who: 5th – 8th Grade Boys

Where: Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive

When: Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact Scoutmaster: Brian Kent at
577-5523 or email: b0k3nt@yahoo.com

January Birthdays

- 2 Candy Valentine
- 4 Jeremy Mohler
- 5 Bambi Teaney
- 8 Mary Bryant
- 11 Johnie Madison
- 12 Kay Dunbar, Matthew Shelton
- 13 James W. Brown, Kendall Smith
- 14 William Head
- 15 Robert R. Hauser
- 16 Carl Helge, Travis Purtle
- 17 James Shelton
- 18 Anna Belle Turner
- 20 Warren D. Crumbling
- 21 Clay Ericson, Eric Reinhart
- 23 Connie Tatom
- 26 Steve Jourdan
- 28 Helen Cox
- 31 Kirk Amundson



Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive
Austin, Texas 78723
Phone: 512-452-5796
Fax: 512-450-0323

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule - Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer

9:15 a.m.- Sunday School (kids and adults)

10:30 a.m.- Worship Service

12:00 Noon - BRUNCH

Wesley School - Chris Banda, Director (467-9740)

Office Hours

Church Secretary - Joanne Macon

Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m.– 12 noon and 1– 4:00 p.m.

Fridays

8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

www.memorialumcaustin.com

E-Mails: secretary@memorialumcaustin.com